IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 8 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   Process for the MPEG type video coding of high definition images, an image being split into panels, an encoder being assigned to each panel, ~~one~~ two or more panels constituting, over the length of the image, a horizontal band of the image, wherein a rate control ~~global regulation, at the level of a band,~~ is implemented at a band level as a function of a preset bit rate for the band, each encoder of the band taking into account a same Video Buffering Verifier (VBV) calculated for the whole band ~~and on the basis of a single Video Buffering Verifier (VBV) taking into account the state of the buffer memories of the encoders of the band~~.

2. (Original)   Process according to Claim 1, wherein the preset bit rate allocated to a horizontal band is dependent on the cost of coding the band relative to the cost of coding a complete image.

3. (Original)   Process according to Claim 2, wherein the coding cost is calculated on the basis of a preanalysis of the image.

4. (Original)   Process according to Claim 2, wherein the coding cost is calculated on the basis of the cost of coding or complexity of a previous image.

5. (Original)   Process according to Claim 2, wherein the preset bit rate for a horizontal band is in part the preset bit rate for the complete image, divided by the number of horizontal bands, in part a dynamic allocation of the preset bit rate for the complete image, dependent on the complexity of the band.

6. (Original)   Process according to Claim 2, wherein the preset bit rate of a horizontal band is equal to:

$$Di = \left(p\frac{Xi}{X} + (1-p)\frac{n}{N} \right)D$$

where : Di is the bit rate of the horizontal band,

D is the bit rate for the global image,

Xi is the complexity of the horizontal band,

X is the total complexity of the image,

n is the number of panels per horizontal band,

N is the total number of panels in the image,

p is the percentage of bit rate assigned to dynamic allocation relative to the global bit rate.

7. (Currently amended)   Device for the video coding of high resolution images, an image being divided into several horizontal bands and the bands into panels, the device comprising a set of encoders of MPEG type, each encoder being dedicated to the coding of a panel, wherein each encoder ~~of one and the same band calculates a quantization step per row of macroblocks as a function of the same information, corresponding to the sum of the coding costs and of the output bit rates of the set of encoders of this band and corresponding to a unique Video Buffering Verifier (VBV) for the band, so as to obtain one and the same quantization step, and in that the encoders perform a coding by dynamic allocation, the bit rate allotted to the set of encoders of a band being calculated on the basis of the complexity of coding the band relative to the complexity of coding the complete image~~ is coupled to another encoder of the same band for exchanging coding data in order to implement a global rate control at a band level through a same Video Buffering Verifier (VBV) for said band.

8. (Currently amended) ˙   Device according to Claim 7, ~~wherein the information is exchanged over the~~ comprising a multiplexing bus linking the encoders ~~and used~~ for the transmission of the transport streams of the encoders, wherein said coding data are exchanged over said multiplexing bus.

9. (New)   Device according to Claim 7, wherein each encoder comprises means for calculating a dynamic allocation, the bit rate allotted to the set of encoders of a band being calculated on the basis of the complexity of coding the band relative to the complexity of coding the complete image.